

# THE ALMA RECORD.

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## OFFICER TOOK PAY FROM BOTH

On Cross Examination in Murder Case George Brown Made a Bad Admission.

## IS THIRD WARD CONSTABLE

Two Women Swore Eichorn Was with Them on the Night that Murder Was Committed.

When the Epler murder case was resumed Monday the court room was packed by a throng of sensation seekers, among whom rumors had spread that the defense in the case would introduce some startling testimony during the day, but it was not until Wednesday when Constable Geo. Brown of Alma was on the stand that the biggest sensation came.

They had their fill of sensation when Mrs. John Todd and her sister, Mrs. G. Pappas, wife of a Toledo saloon keeper, were called to the stand. These two were said to constitute the main alibi witnesses for Albert Eichorn.

Both of the women swore that Albert Eichorn was calling on them in Mrs. Todd's rooms in Ithaca on the night of the murder of Miss Beatrice Epler, of which he is accused.

While on the stand they admitted that on Thursday night following the murder, that they had accompanied Albert Eichorn and John F. Brennan to Hemlock, where they had obtained liquor. They said that they returned about 1:30 a. m., and that they spent a couple of hours at the home of Albert Eichorn, Mrs. Eichorn being away at the time. Mrs. Todd and Mrs. Pappas were questioned about what happened at the house, the former claiming her privilege of not having to incriminate herself, and the latter claiming that nothing happened. The women claim that Eichorn was a constant visitor of their during that week, this being during the week of September 3, 1917.

Tuesday morning Mrs. Eichorn was called to the stand to add strength to the sensational alibi of Eichorn. Mrs. Eichorn stated that her husband left home that night about 7:00 p. m., and that he returned again about 10:20, adding strength to the alibi, which the defense is endeavoring to build up for Eichorn.

Merle Cooper of this city was called to the stand following Mrs. Eichorn and furnished another sensation for those who packed the court room. Cooper was on the stand only a few minutes, when a legal fight developed between the attorneys for the prosecution and defense, which resulted in his being removed for the time.

During the time that he was on the stand Cooper swore that he heard David Beaudry, the French-Canadian hunter, lumberman, detective, and Mrs. Gilson frame up a deal to get the reward of \$2,000 which was offered by the county for the conviction of the murderer or murderers of Beatrice Epler. He said that he was working in the cellar of the Gilson home when Beaudry made the call, at which time he hatched up the deal. Cooper claimed that this was the day before the Gilson woman was taken to Ithaca and held as an important witness in the case.

Wednesday George Brown, constable of the third ward of this city, was on the stand and furnished a nice, juicy morsel for the packed court room. While on the stand, the Alma officer did not seem to be absolutely certain of anything. He did believe, however, that he saw Beatrice Epler on the race bridge on East Superior street late in the evening.

On cross examination the real surprise was furnished when it was brought out that this officer of the law had accepted pay from both the county and the defense on the case. Just what will be the outcome of the admissions made by the Alma officer, is hard to tell.

There now seems but little question but what the case will continue for at least another week before it gets to the jury, and it may be two weeks before the case is decided.

The belief seems to be growing that the prosecution has a very strong case which the defense is having a hard time to get around.

As the Record went to press this afternoon word was received that defense had read its case for the time being. The prosecution called two witnesses from Alma late this afternoon for rebuttal.

C. A. Miller, assistant sales manager of the Republic Motor Truck Co., left the first of the week for a three weeks' business trip through the western states. He will make such points as Chicago, St. Paul and Salt Lake City.

## MASS MEETING

Enlistment Meeting for Navy Recruiting to be Held Monday.

One of the biggest mass meetings to be held in Alma since the outbreak of the war is scheduled to be held next Monday evening in the M. E. church, as a means of stimulating enlistments in the United States navy which is now seeking additional enlistments to bring the navy up to 500,000 enlisted men.

Plans for the coming event are not yet entirely completed, but it is certain that good speakers will be present, as well as a band, which will be brought here from Shepherd for this affair only.

Among the speakers who will be present will be J. N. McCall, editor of the Gratiot County Herald at Ithaca, a well-known Gratiot figure, who will come to Alma with a message. He knows whereof he speaks on such matters, and has the right to speak, having a son in the service. Rev. Duffey, pastor of the M. E. church, will also make an address and an appeal for enlistments. Two prominent speakers from Detroit will also be present at the meeting.

Before the mass meeting a parade will be held on the streets, and efforts are being made by the committee to have something unusual in the way of a parade for this event. The parade will be held at 7:30.

## SCHOOL CONTRACT WAS LET MONDAY

Contractor Starr of Royal Oak Secured Contract for New Building.

On Monday the Alma school board let the contract for the new \$45,000 school which is to be erected in East Alma this summer, and the total amount of the contract will run so little over the estimated price that it is bound to cause no little surprise around the city, as it had been variously estimated that the building would cost from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

The contract for the building, the heating and the wiring of the structure comes to just \$46,755, being very little over the estimated price, and this sum may have come from the price rises in the various needed commodities since the time that the estimates were made some months ago.

N. A. Starr, of Royal Oak, who has constructed five schools in that city in the past five years, was the successful bidder for the new ward school, which is to be constructed in Alma. The contract price for the construction of the building is \$37,400. The heating and plumbing contract was let to Edward Giggons of Lansing for \$8,470, and the wiring contract was let to the Michigan Brass and Electrical company of Lansing for the sum of \$795.

The trees on the school site have been cleared away by Neil McCallum, and everything is now in readiness for the actual construction work to begin. Mr. Starr will start work just as soon as possible on the construction of the building.

The Alma school board has worked on the plans, and done everything possible to give Alma a good ward school at as small a cost as possible, and in view of the estimates that have been made of what it would cost to construct the building, the board is to be congratulated that it has been able to secure such good bids. It shows plainly that the board is endeavoring to give Alma the best that it possibly can for the money.

## NEW ADDITION

The X-Cel-All Company Forced to Enlarge Immediately.

The growth of the business of The X-Cel-All company of this city has been such that during the past week the new Alma concern has been forced to construct a new addition to its plant here, not being able to wait for the construction of the large addition which is being planned for later in the summer.

The new addition which was constructed this week is a frame one, 20 by 24 feet, with cement floors. It is on the west side of the main plant.

The company is also planning on an addition to be constructed shortly which will be 100 by 30 feet, demanded by the rapid growth of the business, which comes from the ever increasing popularity of the X-Cel-All products.

Manager Bamborough told the Record yesterday that several of the division men were at the plant Saturday to go over the various phases of the selling end of the game.

## ALMA COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Commencement Will Be Held at Chapel May 29 with Rev. Cochran as Speaker.

## TO BE EARLIER THAN USUAL

All Work of Year is Finished Altho' College Closes Early Because of War.

The annual Alma college commencement will be held this year two weeks earlier than usual, owing to the need of men in the factories and on the farms during the summer months. With this end in view the annual spring vacation was done away with that college might close earlier.

The commencement this year will be held on Wednesday, May 29, at which time the Rev. Joseph W. Cochran, D. D., of the Woodward avenue Presbyterian church of Detroit will give the address to the graduates. The commencement exercises will be held at 10:00 a. m. and will be followed by the annual commencement luncheon at Wright Hall.

At the final chapel exercises of the year, which will be held on Monday morning, May 27, the Athletic association will award letters to the athletes on the various teams that the college has had competing this year. It will be a pleasure to award such letters this year, due to the fact that Alma college has enjoyed her most prosperous athletic season during the past college year, having won three championships, if the base ball team defeats Olivet Friday afternoon in base ball, and two if the team loses.

On Tuesday, May 28, the annual meeting of the board of trustees of the college will be held and at this meeting the honors to the graduates will be formally awarded, as well as such honorary degrees as may be conferred by the board this year.

Alma college will graduate twenty young men and women this year, including one young man now in the service of his country. The list of the graduates follows:

Helen Baker of Thessalon, Ontario; Olive Batie of Bad Axe; Frank Bittner of Alma, Bess Brown of Farwell, Earl Coleman of Hastings, Marion Cooper of Lansing, Elizabeth Creaser of Alma, Marie Doane of Alma, Lulu Ellis of Alma, Frank E. Ellisworth of Kalamazoo, Octavio Guerra of Alma, Ruth Hooper of Alma, Chas. Kennedy of Chicago, Harold Lampman of Clare, Edith Laver of Unionville, Linton Melvin of DeTour, Laura Rafter of Alma, Verne Richards of Detroit, Lucille Smith of Wheeler and Carl Street of Wheeler.

The program for commencement week follows:

Sunday, May 26.

10:00 a. m.—Farewell communion—Rev. Wm. H. Mason, D. D., pastor.

7:30 p. m.—Baccalaureate address by President Harry Means Crooks, LL. D.

Monday, May 27.

10:00 a. m.—Final chapel service. Distribution of athletic, oratorical and debating emblems.

8:00 p. m.—Exercises of the kindergarten department.

Tuesday, May 28.

9:00 a. m.—Meeting of board of trustees.

12:00 noon—Alumni luncheon in college grove.

4 p. m.—Graduating piano recital—Ethel Palmer.

8:00 p. m.—Senior promenade.

9:00 p. m.—The president's reception at his home.

Wednesday, May 29.

Commencement address by Rev. Joseph Cochran, D. D., LL. D.

1:00 p. m.—Commencement luncheon at Wright Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

Dr. Peter Stair, the Sunday school specialist of Bishop Theodore S. Henderson's cabinet, will be at the Methodist Episcopal church of this city for a two-day conference on Sunday school problems Sunday and Monday, May 19 and 20.

The Methodist church is very fortunate in being able to secure the presence of this able specialist on Sunday school work, and much good is expected to result from his visit to this city. It is expected that a large gathering will meet him.

The J. M. Montigel implement store on East Superior street is seeing some big changes for the betterment of the business. The offices have been considerably enlarged, and redecorated, and a large quantity of new shelving installed.

## HE IS HONORED

Major Royce, Former Alma Boy Decorated by French General.

Major Ralph Royce of Hancock, Michigan, former Alma boy and descendant of a family of fighters, was decorated with the war cross by a French general Monday, May 13, according to a message.

Royce, who is a graduate of West Point, was decorated as the first American army aviator to accomplish a reconnaissance flight over the enemy lines. He was also especially mentioned in the citation for the successful direction of the air squadron he commands at the front.

Royce, who is a former Alma boy, attended the local schools for a time. He is a grandson of General Ralph Ely, one of the pioneer settlers of Gratiot county, who made a name for himself in the Civil war. He now has two brothers in the service and one cousin, Ralph Ely, of Deming, New Mexico, is U. S. food administrator of that state.

His mother, Mrs. Royce, of Hancock, is visiting here at the present time with T. A. Ely and Mr. and Mrs. Brewbaker.

## ALMA COLLEGE LOSES MANY MEN

Fifty Per Cent of Men Entering in Fall Have Gone into U. S. Service.

That the American college has justified itself, and particularly Alma college, if it ever needed justification, by its large contributions to the fighting forces of the United States.

As a glittering example of the contributions made by such institutions, Alma college with one hundred and one men enrolled in the college classes last year, has sent forty-nine into the service of the government, or nearly fifty per cent of the total number of men who entered college last fall. It is a record of duty doing, of which Alma college may well be proud. It shows conclusively that Alma college furnishes the right environment.

The service flag of Alma college now has one hundred and twenty stars for her men in the service, among whom are stars for a major, a captain, eight first lieutenants, fourteen second lieutenants, five sergeants, three corporals, and eleven in the air service in the army and navy. One-fifth of the total number of Alma college men in the service are officers. This speaks highly also of Alma college training.

Among the men of Alma, who have attended Alma college and are now in the service are Lieut. Ed. H. Wyatt, Lieut. Mark L. Spinney, Alonzo Beshore, John Arthur McIntyre, T. Arnold Robinson, Efford Beverly, William Murphy, Donald Smith, H. Narrance, J. Hopkins, Dallas Brock, Clarence Jessup, Henry King, Russell Gaffney, Dwight VonThurn, Lieut. Von Thurn, Lloyd Sinit, Clifford Cummings, and Robert Notestine.

## ARE COMING

Howe Attractions Ready to Be Seen in Alma This Month.

The Lyman Howe Traveling Festival is certain to be here May 24 and 25, in spite of reports to the contrary one member of the committee informs the Record.

There has been some discussion as to whether or not the festival could be held in the M. E. church as was intended, and while this has not been definitely settled it is certain that the affair will be held in Alma. If it cannot be shown in the M. E. church as originally planned the committee will make arrangements to have it exhibited elsewhere.

It is to be a Red Cross benefit, and is an attraction out of the ordinary, and the committee is determined to hold the affair. It is very probable that it will be held at the church as was first planned, with shows Friday and Saturday evenings of next week, and a matinee on Saturday afternoon.

The attractions are highly recommended by many Alma people who have seen them in various places and are certain to please those who attend.

Announcement will be made next week as to the time the various shows will start, and also the place where it will be held, if it is found necessary to change the place of holding the attraction.

## FEATURED IN LESLIE'S

Leslie's Weekly of last week featured the recent Liberty Loan parade in this city, and carried a picture of the hearse which created so much comment at the time of the parade, in which reposed a hog, adorned with a German helmet. The hearse carried a banner on the sides, which had the caption, "Buy a Bond and Bury Bill."

## NEW TEACHERS ARE ANNOUNCED

Alma Public Schools Will Have at Least Forty Instructors Next Year.

## MANY WILL RETURN AGAIN

Good Work of Present Teachers Prompts Board to Hire Them to Return Next Year.

The list of teachers for the Alma public schools for the year, 1918-19, was made public this week and it becomes a certainty that most of the teachers, who have been employed during the past year will again be here next year.

There are probably two reasons for retaining the teachers again this coming year, the most important, of course, being the fact that the instructors have been getting fine results from the students under their charge, and a minor reason, which may figure in some cases being that teachers are very scarce at present and good ones are very hard to secure. The list of teachers follows:

High school—Supt., A. F. Schultz; principal and mathematics, A. C. Luchman; natural science, Ella Clark; Latin, Elinor Bittner; English, Helen Cone; English and history, Laura Lesh; physical science, Hurl Seudder; commercial, Ray Kimball; history, Margaret Voggt; history and mathematics, Beryl McClelland; music and drawing, Mae Jones, domestic science, Mae Hamilton; manual training, Floyd Maxwell. There will also be an instructor for French in the high school.

Union school—Miss Cora Dunlap, principal; Laura Soule, Henrietta Van Lew, Ethel Vaughn, Louis Keller, seventh and eighth department; Bertha McLaren, Frances Stitt, Winifred Trapp, Mary Orser, Minnie Marsh, Frances Watson.

Primary—Principal, Anetta McLaren; Janet Allen, Mrs. Mary Durkee, Mrs. Lucile Merrihew, Inez Sandy, Mabel Snyder, Ethel Smith, Edna Kuhlman, Norma Johnson, Ruth Hardy.

Hillcrest—Marion Hale, Jean Patterson. City Hall—Georgia Hood. Elmwood school—Alice Harvey, Madeline Haggard.

Republic school—Florence Slater. One more teacher will be needed in the seventh and eighth grade departmental room in the union school building.

The list calls for forty teachers, who are now under contract for the coming year, and it is probable that two or three more will be secured between now and time that school opens in September.

## GOOD BANQUET

Annual Father and Son Banquet Held at Elwell Wednesday Night.

On Wednesday evening, May 14th, the annual father and son banquet was held at Elwell.

The ladies of the Elwell Rebeccan lodge prepared a most sumptuous repast which was served in a delightful and efficient manner in the dining room of the I. O. O. F. hall. Part of the long tables had to be cleared to take care of the overflow from the first sitting. Nearly two hundred were served in all. When the serving was finished Toastmaster McLaughlin commenced the special business by calling upon W. C. Fugley to state the aims and purposes of the association.

The speaker very briefly and forcefully told what had been done and what was expected in the future. He voiced the satisfaction of everyone over the success of the plans. Following this came the musical part of the program, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. F. H. Knight, a student of Alma college, in charge of the church at Elwell, gave a very interesting address following the musical program, keeping the attention of his audience to pay special heed to the need of men to take the places left vacant by those who fall in the great war. Rev. J. Frank Jackson, rector of St. John's church of Alma was also a speaker at the affair and gave a very interesting address, which was well received by those who heard it.

## TALKS AT ELWELL.

Sunday evening F. L. Convis of Ithaca will give an address at the Elwell church in regard to the coming Red Cross drive. A good attendance is requested, as the message that Mr. Convis will bring to the people of Elwell is an important one.

## FARMER REPORTED

Claimed That Gratiot County Man is Hoarding Needed Wheat.

The attention of the Record is called to the fact that a complaint has been lodged with the Department of Justice to the effect that John Stake, living one mile north and one mile east of Wheeler, is hoarding wheat and refusing to sell. The complaint has been turned to the food administration by the Department of Justice.

Affidavits have been submitted to the effect that John Stake is a pro-German and has voiced the opinion that American vessels should stay off the seas as Germany had a right to sink them.

It is also claimed that Stake has six hundred bushels of wheat which he has refused to sell, that he still has the 1917 clipping of wool from eighty sheep, and that he has about twenty-five tons of hay.

It is expected that results will be forthcoming from the food administration and that Stake will be ordered to sell his wheat or that the sheriff or county food administration will be given orders to sell it for him.

The local branch of the American Protective league is investigating numerous other matters in the county which may result in charges being made over various matters. Hoarders of foodstuffs will be reported directly as rapidly as the league can locate them.

## BAPTIST CHURCH WAS DEDICATED SUNDAY

Enlarged Structure, Now Completed, Was Dedicated at Services Held Sunday.

The First Baptist church which is now using the handsome new addition to its building, dedicated the completed structure Sunday.

A year ago the contract was let to Henry Soule for \$7,365. Necessary changes in the old and the new building have added more than a thousand dollars to this sum.

The Sunday school room is on a level with the church auditorium, and is beautifully lighted with art glass windows. It is provided with a balcony in which and under which provision is made for eight class rooms. In the basement, which is also well lighted, is a large dining room, which will also be used by the primary department, and a kitchen. The new building is heated by steam.

The dedication services were held on Sunday, May 6th. It was a beautiful day and there were large congregations at both services. The Rev. Joshua Roberts, district superintendent for northern Michigan, preached the dedicatory sermon setting forth Isaiah's vision of God as his preparation for service. He also offered the Prayer of Dedication. Mrs. Mary Sharp Sibley sang a beautiful solo, "My Task." Pledges were taken at this service for the building fund, and the entire amount was raised in pledges that are to be paid within two years.

At the evening service Rev. Roberts preached an evangelistic sermon, and Miss Jones sang a solo. The Presbyterian church united in this service.

On Wednesday evening, May 8th, there was a church supper in the new building. About a hundred people enjoyed a very good supper and President Crooks of Alma college delivered a most helpful address in which he congratulated the members on their better facilities for service and pointed out their greater responsibilities. Friday evening of this week there is to be a Sunday school social which all the members of the Sunday school except the primary department are expected to attend. There will be gathering for the primary children on Saturday afternoon.

The Baptist church now has comfortable and commodious quarters in which to do its Sunday school work, and cultivate the social life of the church.

## WILL COMPETE

Eighth Grade After Four-Minute War Savings Speech Honors.

The pupils of the eighth grade will compete for honors in four-minute war savings speeches which will be given Wednesday, May 22, at 2:20 at the union school. The public is invited to attend.

Following is a list of those after speaking honors: Jack Rockwell, Gladys Ayling, Elma Lyon, Lell Smith, Leo Handley, Elliott Crooks, Lois Smith, Bernard Graham, Kenneth Moore, John Holmes and Helen Pettyjohn.

## SIXTY-ONE MEN TO BE CALLED

Will be Asked to Report to Gratiot County Draft Board Saturday, May 25th.

## MAY CALL THE MARRIED MEN

Reclassification of Some Men Will Cause Board to Call Some Farmers.

The Gratiot County Draft Board has received word that sixty-one men are to be called for military duty from the county on May 25th, and with class one, nearly depleted, word comes to reclassify the men who have been deferred.

Some weeks ago the board was instructed to defer all persons actually engaged in agricultural work, and this was followed out by the local board and many were held over, leaving class one almost depleted.

Under the new orders, which call for 61 men the 25th, the board is instructed to reclassify, taking in the men who have been deferred since May 18, 1917, and to fill the balance of the quota from those who have been deferred in classification.

This puts the local board up against a very disagreeable task, as they will be compelled to take some farmers, who have been deferred. This means that these farmers, who have been satisfied that they would not be called, will be called.

It may possibly put some farmers up against it for help. The department, however, says that the army must have the men, and they must come from class one. All boards must act accordingly.

## CINCH TITLE

College Base Ball Team Will Win Honors by Defeating Olivet.

The final Michigan Intercollegiate base ball game of the season with Olivet college on Davis field Friday afternoon at 3:30 is expected to give the maroon and cream the Michigan Intercollegiate championship in this sport.

In spite of the fact that he was forced to put a green team into the field this year and that it has not become thoroughly accustomed to college base ball as yet, Coach Harry Helmer has worked wonders with the men he has had out, and is conceding every opportunity to defeat the crimson Friday and take the championship.

The only game which Alma has lost this season in the association was to Olivet's nine, which the other colleges had slaughtered by big scores but the maroon and cream was sadly off form when this battle was fought out. At that Alma almost overcame a nine run lead, and nearly took the game from the crimson.

Alma is now leading the association race and a victory over Olivet will cinch the title.

Alma is now leading the association defeating every team which she played, and while official award of a title was not made, due to the war, Hillsdale would have a hard time disputing Alma's better claim, although having a slight chance to tie the locals.

Without question Coach Helmer will select Eddie Boyne to do the mound duty against Olivet Friday and the Marlette lad is being groomed for fair this week and should give an able account of himself when he trots out on Davis field tomorrow. Boyne has 84 strikeouts to his credit for the season and will make an effort to get sixteen in the Olivet game and bring his mark up to one hundred.

## FARMER DEAD

Elias H. Raycraft of Arcadia Township Died Early Tuesday Morning.

Elias H. Raycraft, a prominent farmer of Arcadia township, passed away at his home early Tuesday morning after an illness of only a few days. He was 67 years and 11 months of age.

He was born in Rochester, N. Y., and came with his parents to Michigan while still very young and had resided in this state since that time. He is survived by his wife, Lillian, two sons, Burr and John Raycraft, and one sister, Mrs. Eliza Post.

The funeral was held at the home this afternoon, Rev. Duffey of the M. E. church and the Alma Masonic lodge having charge of the services. Interment was made in Riverside cemetery.